

REMARKS

This response is a Preliminary Amendment that supplements the Request for Continued Examination (RCE) filed August 31, 2004. All objections and rejections are respectfully traversed. Reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

The specification has been amended to correct minor errors contained therein. Specifically, at page 9, line 1, the phrase “grants the tokens to the *first* process” has been changed to “grants the tokens to the *second* process.” Also, the word “it” was removed from page 15, line 6 and the phrase “*whose* grant message” has been changed to “*that* grant message” at page 17, line 12. No new matter is being introduced.

Claims 1-40 are pending. Applicant has added new claims 38-40 comprising similar subject matter previously presented in claims 1-37. Accordingly, no new matter is being introduced in the newly added claims.

Claims 1-37 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 5,742,812 issued to Baylor et al. (hereafter “Baylor”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,634,122 issued to Loucks et al. (hereafter “Loucks”).

Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections for the same reasons presented in the Applicant’s After-Final Amendment dated April 2, 2004. For convenience, these arguments are again presented below.

Claim 1 recites in relevant part:

“A computerized data file system, comprising:”

“a first process . . .”

“a second process that generates a **first message requesting** that said second process be granted by said first process a **plurality of tokens** required for said second process to modify at least one characteristic of said file”.

In other words, claim 1 recites that a single message conveys a request, not for one, but for a plurality of tokens.

Paragraph 4 of the final Office action, dated February 6, 2004, relies on the Loucks reference as purportedly teaching a single message requesting a plurality of tokens that are required to modify a desired file. Applicant submits that, with all due respect, a fair and proper reading of Loucks does not support such a conclusion. Instead, Loucks, like the art described in the Background section of this application, can only request one token per message.

The final Office action cites to the Abstract and to Col. 3, lines 45-52 of Loucks as purportedly teaching a single message that requests a plurality of tokens. In the Abstract, Loucks explicitly states that tokens are only requested one at a time. Abstract, lines 5-7 (“Each requested operation checks for the proper token. If the token is not held by the process, it is requested.”) The Abstract also notes that Loucks token manager can request authorization tokens from a local token manager, but Loucks provides absolutely no teaching or suggestion that multiple tokens can be requested by the token manager in a single message. Instead, given the explicit language in the Abstract at lines 5-7 quoted above, the only proper teaching of Loucks is that tokens must be requested one at a time.

The other section of Loucks that was cited in the final Office Action, Col. 3, lines 45-52, states as follows:

means for requesting authorization for a computer implemented process to perform an operation on shared data; means for managing requests generated by the means for requesting; and means for granting authorization tokens allowing an operation to be performed on the shared data, the means for granting being responsive to the means for managing.

Applicant agrees that this excerpt states that Loucks' token manager grants multiple tokens. However, this excerpt is completely silent as to how the computer implemented process looking for authorization requests one or more tokens, and thus provides no teaching or suggestion for a process that generates a single message requesting a plurality of tokens in order to modify a file. It is improper for the final Office action to read into this excerpt from Loucks particular teachings that are wholly absent. Again, this excerpt provides no teaching or suggestion for the generation of single message that requests a plurality of tokens, as recited in claim 1.

Consideration of Loucks in its entirety, moreover, clearly demonstrates that tokens are requested one at a time. In particular, the following excerpts from Loucks all show that tokens are requested one at a time:

(1) Col. 6, lines 28-29 ("When the token requester, mtkr 418, of an MDFS client requests a token from the token manager . . .");

(2) Col. 6, lines 31-32 ("it may request a new token from the local token manager . . .");

(3) Col. 7, lines 4-5 ("If the requested token does not conflict . . .");

(4) Col. 9, lines 36-37 ("if the Stash token is requested . . .");

(5) Fig. 8A, block 804 ("Request token from ltkm");

(6) Fig. 8B, block 816 ("Wait for token request");

(7) Fig. 9A, block 903 (“Get Open_ Write token for fileset y”);

(8) Fig. 9B, block 938 (“Identify Requester and requested token”)

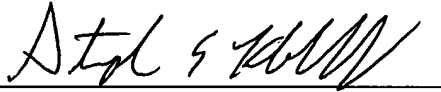
All of the above excerpts clearly demonstrate that a request issued by one of Loucks’ processes is only **for a single token**. There is no teaching or suggestion by Loucks for a single message that can somehow request a plurality of tokens. Loucks does state that, over time, multiple tokens can be requested (Col. 7, lines 55-57), but the only teaching provided by Loucks is that multiple messages or requests must be issued in order to obtain those multiple tokens. Because Loucks fails to teach or suggest a single message for requesting a plurality of tokens, the rejection of claim 1 should be withdrawn. The rejection of claims 2-5, which depend from claim 1, should also be withdrawn. Furthermore, claims 11-18, 20-31 and 35-36 all recite a single message or request for a grant of a plurality of tokens. Accordingly, these claims are also allowable over the art of record for the same reasons set forth above.

Claims 6-10, 19 and 32-34 all recite the issuance of a single message that grants a plurality of tokens. Loucks also fails to provide any teaching or suggestion for the issuance of a single message granting a plurality of tokens. Instead, Loucks repeatedly states that only a single token is ever issued at any one time. For example, block 826 of Fig. 8B recites the step “Grant token”, i.e., one token. Block 916 of Fig. 9A and block 956 of Fig. 9B both recite the step “Grant token”, i.e., one token. Thus, the only teaching provided by Loucks is to grant a single token at any one time. There is no teaching or suggestion by Loucks for somehow granting multiple tokens in a single message.

Applicant submits that the application is in condition for allowance and early favorable action is requested.

It is believed that no extensions of time or fees are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a), and any fees required (including fees for net addition of claims) are hereby authorized to be charged to Hewlett-Packard Development Company's deposit account no. 08-2025.

Respectfully submitted,



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